

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-12 and 14-25 remain in the application, all of which stand rejected.

Claim 13 was previously canceled.

The amendments to claims 5 and 10 are supported, at least, by the description at page 9, lines 5-6, of applicant's specification.

1. Rejection of Claim 25 Under 35 USC 112

Claim 25 stands rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. More specifically, the Examiner asserts that the limitation "connecting to a support location, ***via the network interface module***" is not supported by the original disclosure. Applicant respectfully disagrees. FIG. 1, for example, shows a call button 147 that is part of voice module 120, which voice module 120 is connected to the network interface module 110 via the connector 125.

2. Rejection of Claims 1-10, 14-16 and 18-23 Under 35 USC 102(e)

Claims 1-10, 14-16 and 18-23 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Loveland (US Patent No. 6,782,413).

With respect to claim 1, the Examiner asserts that Loveland teaches an "electronic test instrument (130, 134, or 132)" in FIG. 2. Applicant disagrees and believes the Examiner is reading the limitation of a "test instrument" out of the claim. That is, applicant does not believe one of ordinary skill in the art would consider any of the generic computing devices 130, email server 132 or database server 134 to be "electronic test instruments". Claim 1 is believed to be allowable for at least this reason.

In responding to applicant's amendment of claim 1 to recite an "electronic test instrument", the Examiner notes that claims are to be given their broadest reasonable interpretation. The Examiner further notes that:

. . . the claims do not limit the recitation of "electronic test instrument" and do not state its specific functionalities to further distinguish it from any available/known instrument or device in the same field of endeavor.

5/13/2008 Office Action, p. 9.

However, applicant notes that claims are only to be given their broadest "reasonable" interpretation. Here, the Examiner has asserted that Loveland discloses an "electronic test instrument", without providing any explanation regarding how or why one of ordinary skill in the art would consider a generic computing device, email server or database server to be a "test instrument" or otherwise have anything to do with "test". It is applicant's position that Loveland neither teaches nor suggests an "electronic test instrument". Claim 1 is believed to be allowable for at least this reason.

Claims 5 and 10, as amended, are believed to be further allowable over claim 1. More specifically, Loveland does not teach a voice module that is built into the chassis of an electronic test instrument. At best, Loveland discloses 1) a computing device 130 that receives data, and 2) a separate telephone 137 that receives voice data.

Claims 2-10, 14-16 and 18-23 are believed to be allowable, at least, because each of these claims ultimately depends from claim 1.

3. Rejection of Claims 11, 12, 17 and 24 Under 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 11, 12, 17 and 24 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Loveland (US Patent No. 6,782,413).

Applicants assert that claims 11, 12, 17 and 24 are allowable, at least, because each of these claims ultimately depends from claim 1, which is believed to be allowable for the reasons set forth in Section 2 of these Remarks/Arguments.

4. Rejection of Claim 25 Under 35 USC 103(a)

Claim 25 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Loveland (US Patent No. 6,782,413) in view of Lashley et al. (US Patent No. 7,003,085; hereinafter “Lashley”).

Claim 25 is believed to be allowable, at least, for reasons similar to why claim 1 is believed to be allowable, and because Lashley fails to disclose that which is missing from Loveland.

5. Conclusion

In light of the amendments and remarks provided herein, applicant respectfully requests the issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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